

GOVERNOR'S P-20 COUNCIL
Adolescent Literacy Committee
March 21, 2006
10:00 a.m.
Committee Meeting

Location: 1700 W. Washington, Arizona Department of Commerce, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
Phoenix, AZ 85007

P-20 Members Present: Chair Kristen Rex, Cindy Rudrud, Dr. David Curd

Others: Michael Curd, Dr. Marie Mancuso, Lorie O'Brien

Staff: Debra Raeder and Becky Hill

1. Call to Order & Welcome

Chair Kristen Rex called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2006

There being no discussion on or corrections to the Committee meeting of January 30, 2005, Cindy Rudrud moved approval of the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by David Curd and unanimously approved.

3. Presentation & Discussion: ADE Reading Endorsement Committee Update

Dr. Mancuso distributed a draft of the work of the Literacy Endorsement Committee for both Elementary (K-6) and Secondary (7-12). The Committee consists of the members from the AZReads Taskforce and a representative group of stakeholders convened for revising Arizona's reading endorsement. The Committee has had three meetings. The first meeting was a joint meeting with the Math Endorsement Committee so that both committees could discuss common issues. The two committees agreed that the language of the current endorsements are broad, general and vague and both need more rigor and specificity. The second meeting of the committee was to begin the work on the content and that content would drive the number of hours needed to obtain an endorsement. At this meeting, three subcommittees were formed: Reading Research & Instruction; Assessment & Intervention; and Leadership/Practicum. At the third meeting, discussion centered around an elementary (K-6) and Secondary (7-12) endorsement and how differentiated should the endorsements be.

After taking a few minutes to review the materials presented by Dr. Mancuso, the Committee engaged in conversation on the information presented. The Committee felt that the draft needed to ensure that all teachers learn to provide reading intervention and that this strategy did not appear to be reflected in the document. There was also concern by the Committee that 5-8 graders have special needs and that there is a huge drop-off in reading skills in the 8th grade and how does the draft recommendations address this issue. The Committee was also concerned that there be some type of provisional certification that would help address the critical issues facing rural school districts, as well as on-line courses, weekend classes and a role for community colleges. There was also concern that there be a definitive timeline e.g. 20% of educators would have endorsement by a certain date. Dr. Mancuso indicated that one incentive for teachers to pursue the endorsement would be that the certification could be applied toward a Masters Degree. Additional concerns included the issue of teachers who DON'T get this certification – there must be a goal that every school, every district, have a teacher with a reading endorsement. On-going professional development is also critical.

Dr. Mancuso indicated that the next Literacy Endorsement Committee meeting has not been determined. The initial certification proposal will be going to the Board of Education at the end of April; however, it will probably take a year before it becomes a Board rule. Current concern is how to integrate teachers in the current endorsement program with the new program, since the old program only requires 15 hours and the new proposal will require 24 hours.

Other concerns of the Committee included: not enough differentiation; the writing piece seems weak; and public awareness will be important.

Dr. Mancuso indicated she would take these comments back to the Literacy Endorsement Committee.

Becky indicated that the Adolescent Literacy Committee needs to bring a plan to the P-20 Council by late spring or early summer but needs to be responsive to the Literacy Endorsement Committee. The Committee requested a presentation by an expert in the area of reading assessments. Dr. Mancuso will provide Debra with a list of people who could address the Committee in this regard.

Kristen thanked Dr. Mancuso for the presentation and indicated that the Committee would like an update of the next meeting of the Literacy Endorsement Committee.

4. Presentation & Discussion: Information on Lexile

Cindy Rudrud briefly updated the Committee on the work currently underway in the Peoria Unified School District in this regard. Peoria has a Daggett “model school” and will be able to have much of the Lexile work done for the District as well as the state for free. Cindy will ask for an update from Peoria, as well as someone at Lexile, at the next meeting of the Committee.

5. Presentation & Discussion: NGA Grant Award for Adolescent Literacy

Debra reported that she, Becky Hill and Kristen Rex would be attending a meeting on March 30-31st in Washington, D.C. with representatives from NGA and the Carnegie Foundation on the Adolescent Literacy Grant. Debra also distributed a copy of the Grant application to the Committee. At this meeting, the framework for how the grant funds will be used will be formulated and brought back to the Committee.

6. Next Steps

- Dr. Mancuso will report back on the next meeting of the Literacy Endorsement Committee.
- Next meeting of the Committee to be in April – Debra will provide some dates to the Committee.
- Presentation on Lexile.
- Framework to Committee on Grant funds.
- Presentation by an expert in the area of reading assessments.
- Staff & Chair to address additional members for the Committee who are experts in the areas of adolescent literacy and/or assessment for adolescent literacy.
- Staff to arrange joint meeting with the Data & Graduation Rate Compact Committee.
- Recommendations to P-20 Council by June.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:30 a.m.